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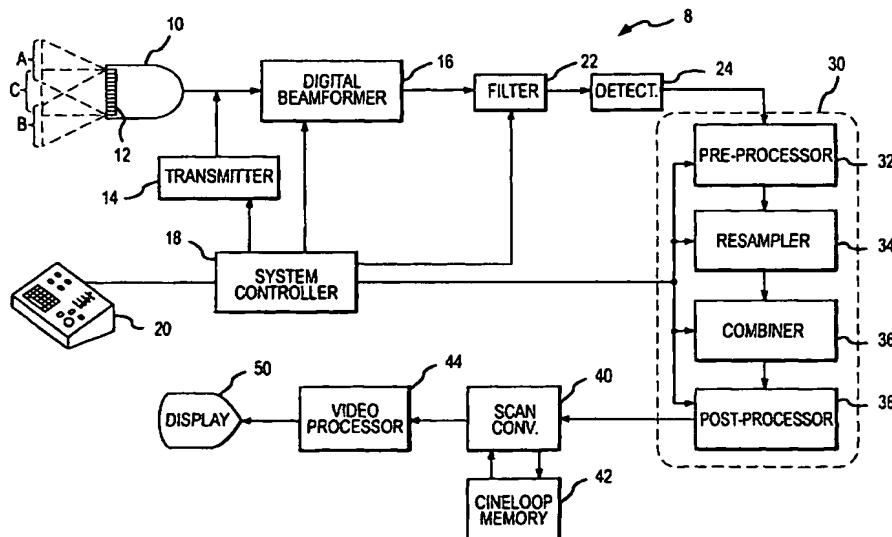
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **ULTRASOUND IMAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD HAVING ADAPTIVE SELECTION OF IMAGE FRAME RATE AND/OR NUMBER OF ECHO SAMPLES AVERAGED**



(57) Abstract: An ultrasound diagnostic imaging system and method are described in which ultrasound image frames are generated by receiving ultrasound echo signals in response to respective ultrasound transmissions, sampling the echo signals, and then averaging the samples over a number of ultrasound transmissions. In one embodiment, the system allows a minimum image frame rate to be set, either directly by a user or indirectly from the rate of movement of physiological structures being imaged. The rate of movement of the structures is either estimated by the user or determined by the system.

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